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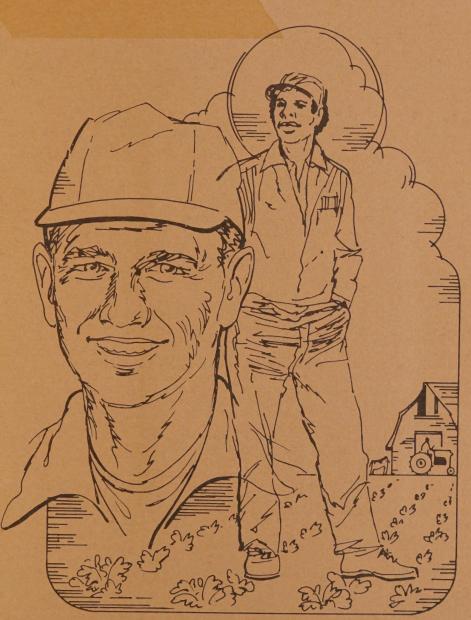
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Handbook for Small or Limited Resource Farmers

Virginia



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Message from the Secretary

It is a pleasure to present this *Handbook for Small or Limited Resource Farmers*, a directory of public and private agencies which offer program services to the agricultural and rural communities of America.

Some farmers and some rural communities fail to utilize programs for which they are eligible simply because they don't know what the programs are or where they are. We are issuing this publication in our continuing effort to make agricultural programs more accessible to all Americans.

We believe this handbook will serve farmers, rural communities, agricultural organizations, and the general public as a useful guide through the labyrinth of public and private agencies charged to deliver agricultural and rural services to our nation.

Sincerely,

Richard E. Lyng Secretary

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Published by the Office of Advocacy and Enterprise U.S. Department of Agriculture

Samuel J. Cornelius Director

Edited by

Yvonne Blanchard Freeman, Ed. D. *Chief*Limited Resource Farmer Initiative

Prepared by Shirlene Mattison and Vivian Moore Equal Opportunity Staff Office of Advocacy and Enterprise

August 1987

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This Handbook for Small or Limited Resource Farmers is a directory of rural and agricultural programs in 17 southern and border states where most U.S. farms are located. It is being issued in an effort to broaden access to agricultural programs and rural resources, particularly among farm operators and owners whose resources are substantially limited.

The needs of farmers with limited resources are of great concern to the Office of Advocacy and Enterprise, U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). One of the most important functions of that office is to provide overall leadership to USDA agencies and affiliates to assure that all Americans have equal access to the programs and opportunities sponsored by the Department of Agriculture.

We would especially appreciate your suggestions on how future directories might better serve farmers and other rural community residents. Please address your comments as follows:

Limited Resource Farmer Initiative Office of Advocacy and Enterprise U.S. Department of Agriculture Washington, DC 20250

We hope this publication proves a useful tool for locating agricultural programs and rural resources.

Acknowledgements

This handbook was developed and prepared by virtue of the cooperation and generous assistance of private and public agency personnel throughout the country.

Of the many service organizations in the private sector, we are particularly indebted to the American Agricultural Movement, the American Bar Association, the Federation of Southern Cooperatives, the Legal Services Administration, The National Association of Community Health Centers, the National Clearinghouse for Primary Care Information, and the National Farmers Union.

During the development and preparation of this publication, the agricultural entities of the Land-Grant Colleges and Universities upheld their reputation as a national resource by providing valuable information and suggestions.

Of public sector organizations, we are most grateful to the National Institutes of Health and many state agencies, particularly the Departments of Agriculture and Departments of Economic Development.

Finally, we thank our colleagues in the Department of Agriculture who serve in the Agricultural Cooperative Service, the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, the Cooperative State Research Service, the Extension Service, the Farmers Home Administration, the Food and Nutrition Service, and the Soil Conservation Service for providing the bulk of the data from which this directory was compiled.



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Land Assistance Fund, Federation
of Southern Cooperatives

Federal Agencies

Agricultural Experiment Station Hutcheson Hall Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Blacksburg, VA 24061 703/961-6337

Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service Federal Bldg., Rm 7105 400 No. 8th St. Richmond, VA 23240-9990 804/771-2581

Farmers Home Administration Federal Bldg., Rm 8213 400 N. 8th St. Richmond, VA 23240 804/771-2451

Administrative Office 804/771-2270

Business and Industry 804/771-2737

Community Programs 804/771-2723

Farmer Programs 804/771-2453

Rural Housing 804/771-2615

District Offices:

- I Ketell Bldg. Flannagan and Carroll St. P.O. Box 1238 Lebanon, VA 24266 703/889-4860
- II 420 Calhoun St. Wytheville, VA 24382 703/228-5402

- III 276 So. Main St. Rocky Mount, VA 24151 703/483-5133
- IV 633 E. Market St. Harrisonburg, VA 22801 703/434-2501
- V Sovran Bank Bldg., 2nd Fl. 3rd and Main St. P.O. Box 466 Farmville, VA 23901 804/392-4137
- VI Rappahannock Office Bldg. Rappahannock Shopping Center P.O. Box 1408 Tappahannock, VA 22560 804/443-5367
- VII 122 W. 2nd Ave. Franklin, VA 23851 804/569-9655

Food and Nutrition Service Mid-Atlantic Regional Office CN 02150 Trenton, NJ 08650 609/259-5000

Field Offices

U.S. Post Office Bldg., Rm 200 101 W. Chesapeake Ave. Towson, MD 21204 301/962-2390

3101 Park Center Dr., Rm 704 Alexandria, VA 22302 703/756-3485

Federal Bldg., Rm 10-029 400 North 8th St. Richmond, VA 23240 804/771-2558

Food Stamp Program Cooperating Offices:

State Department of Social Services Koger Executive Plaza 8007 Discovery Dr. Richmond, VA 23288 804/281-9204

Soil Conservation Service Federai Bldg, Rm 9201 400 North 8th St. Richmond, VA 23240 804/771-2455

State Agencies

Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services P.O. Box 1163 Richmond, VA 23209 804/ 786-3501

University Programs

Cooperative Extension Service Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University 336 Burruss Hall Blacksburg, VA 24061 703/961-6705

Cooperative Extension Service Virginia State University P.O. Box 540 Petersburg, VA 23803 804/520-6421

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University Hutcheson Hall Blacksburg, VA 24061 703/961-6336

School of Agriculture Virginia State University P.O. Box 70 Petersburg, VA 23803 804/520-5622

Legal Services of Northern Virginia

2009 North 14th St., Suite 700 Arlington, VA 22201 703/522-9191

Rappahannock Legal Services, Inc.

910 Princess Anne St., Suite 216 Fredericksburg, VA 22401 703/371-1105

Peninsula Legal Aid Center, Inc. 1214 Kecoughtan Road

P.O. Box 1376 Hampton, VA 23661 804/247-6621

Central Virginia Legal Aid Society, Inc.

114 East Cary St. P.O. Box 12005 Richmond, VA 23219 804/648-1012

Legal Aid Society of Roanoke Valley

312 Church Ave., S.W. Roanoke, VA 24016 703/344-2088

Virginia Legal Aid Society, Inc.

501 Church St. P.O. Box 6058 Lynchburg, VA 24505 804/528-4722

Southside Virginia Legal Services, Inc.

233 South Adams St. Petersburg, VA 23803 804/862-1100

Charlottesville-Albermarle Legal Aid Society

413 E. Market St., Suite 202 Charlottesville, Virginia 22901 804/972-1770

Southwest Virginia Legal Aid Society, Inc.

The Hull Building 554 South Main St. Marion, VA 24354 703/783-8300

Legal Aid Society of New River Valley, Inc.

111 West Main St. P.O. Box 728 Christiansburg, VA 24073 703/382-6157

Tidewater Legal Aid Society 100 Plume Center West

Suite 412 Norfolk, VA 23510 804/627-5423

Virginia Poverty Law Center, Inc.

9 West Main St. Richmond, VA 23220 804/782-9430

Blue Ridge Legal Services, Inc.

204 North High St. Harrisonburg, VA 22801 703/433-1830

Client Centered Legal Services of Southwest Virginia, Inc.

P.O. Box 147 Castlewood, VA 24224 703/762-5501

Eastern Shore Rural Health System, Inc. P.O. Box 92 Accomac, VA 23301 804/787-7373

Satellites:

Bayview Medical Center P.O. Box 970 Cheriton, VA 23316

Children's Health Center P.O. Box 723 Nassawadox, VA 23413

Atlantic Medical Center P.O. Box 130 Oak Hall, VA 23416

Brunswick Health Care, Inc. P.O. Box 338 Alberta, VA 23821 804/949-7211

Satellites:

Sandy River Medical Center RR No. 2 Axton, VA 24054

Blue Ridge Medical Center Rural Delivery No. 1 P.O. Box 340 Arrington, VA 22922 804/263-4752

Tri-County Medical Corporation P.O. Box 133 Aylett, VA 23009 804/769-3021

Satellites:

Dawn Health Center P.O. Box 1605 Hanover, VA 23069

Bland County Medical Clinic Route 1, Box 2G

Bastian, VA 24314 703/688-4331

Boydton Medical Center

P.O. Box 540 Boydton, VA 23917 804/738-6102

Clinch River Health Services, Inc. P.O. Box 228

Dungannon, VA 24245 703/467-2201

Western Lee County Health Clinic

P.O. Box 159 Ewing, VA 24248 703/445-4826

Ivor Community Health Center, Inc.

P.O. Box 45 Ivor, VA 23866 804/859-6161

Laurel Fork Health Commission

P.O. Box 9 Laurel Fork, VA 24352 703/398-2292

Central Virginia Community Health Center, Inc.

P.O. Box 20 New Canton, VA 23123 804/581-3271

Satellites:

Cartersville Medical Center P.O. Box 27 Cartersville, VA 23027 Southside Health Center, Inc. Route 1 Box 292-A Esmont, VA 22937

Women's Health Center 201 A St. Farmville, VA 23901

Peninsula Institute for Community Health 4715 Marshall Ave. Newport News, VA 23607 804/380-8709 Saltville Health Center Commission P.O. Box 729 Saltville, VA 24370 703/496-4421

Farm Advocacy Organizations

Virginia American Agriculture Movement, Inc. Route 1, Box 2 Yale, VA 23897 804/246-2216

State Bar Association

Virginia State Bar Assn Lawyer Referral Service 700 E. Main St., Suite 1622 Richmond, VA 23219 1-800/552-7977 804/786-5966

Rural Resource Organizations (National and Regional Offices)

Agricultural Council of America 1250 Eye St., N.W. Suite 601 Wash., DC 20005 202/682-9200

American Agriculture Movement, Inc. 100 Maryland Ave., N.E. Suite 500, Box 69 Wash., DC 20002 202/544-5750

American Farm Bureau Federation 600 Maryland Ave., S.W. Wash., DC 20004 202/484-2222

American Land Resource Assn P.O. Box 33488 Wash., DC 20033 202/331-0637

Center for Community Change 1000 Wisconsin Ave., N.W. Wash., DC 20007 202/342-0519

Environmental Policy Institute Agriculture Resources Project 218 D St., S.E. Wash., DC 20003 202/544-2600

Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund

100 Edgewood Ave., N.E. Suite 1228 Atlanta, GA 30303 404/524-6882 Housing Assistance Council, Inc. 1025 Vermont Ave., N.W. Suite 606 Wash., DC 20005 202/842-8600

Southeast Regional Office 1365 Peach St., N.E. Atlanta, GA 30309 404/892-4824

League of Rural Voters 100 Maryland Ave., N.E. Suite 500A, Box 69 Wash., DC 20002 202/554-7456

Legal Services Corp.Office of Field Services
400 Virginia Ave., S.W.
Wash., DC 20024-2751
202/863-1820

National Association for the Southern Rural Poor 248A G St., S.W. Wash., DC 20024 202/554-3265

North Carolina Office 337 West Main St. Suite 203 Durham, NC 27701 919/683-2151

National Association of Community Health Centers 1625 I St., N.W. Suite 420 Wash., DC 20006 202/833-9280

National Association of Towns and Townships 1522 K St., N.W. Suite 730 Wash., DC 20005 202/737-5200

National Center for Neighborhood Enterprise 1367 Connecticut Ave., N.W. Wash., DC 20036 202/331-1103

Affiliate:

National Council for a Black Economic Agenda 1367 Connecticut Ave., N.W. Wash., DC 20036 202/331-1103

National Clearinghouse for Primary Care Information 8201 Greensboro Drive, Suite 600 McLean, VA 22102 703/821-8955

National Council of Agricultural Employees 499 S. Capitol St., S.W. Suite 411 Wash., DC 20003 202/488-1100

National Council of Farmer Cooperatives 1800 Massachusetts Ave., N.W. Wash., DC 20036 202/659-1525

National Farmers Union Denver Headquarters Office 10065 Harvard Ave. Denver, CO 80251 303/337-5500

Washington, DC Office 600 Maryland Ave., S.W. Suite 202W Wash., DC 20024 202/554-1600

St. Paul Field Office 317 York Ave. St. Paul, MN 55101 612/771-3380

National Future Farmers of America

5632 Mt. Vernon Memorial Highway P.O. Box 15160 Alexandria, VA 22309 703/360-3600

National Grange 1616 H St., N.W. Wash., DC 20006 202/628-3507

National Rainbow Coalition 2100 M St., N.W. Suite 609 Wash., DC 20037 202/955-5795

National Rural Development and Finance Corp. 1718 Connecticut Ave., N.W. Suite 400 Wash., DC 20009 202/797-8820

National Rural Electric Cooperative Association 1800 Massachusetts Ave., N.W. Wash., DC 20036 202/857-9500

National Rural Housing Coalition 1016 - 16th St., N.W. 8th Floor Wash., DC 20036 202/775-0046

National Rural Water Association Box 1604 Duncan, OK 73533 405/672-8925

Washington, DC Office 1776 K St., N.W. Wash., DC 20006 202/833-9481

National Save the Family **Farm Coalition**

80 F St., N.W. Suite 714 Wash., DC 20001 202/737-2215

National Sharecroppers Fund/ **Rural Advancement Fund**

2124 Commonwealth Ave. Charlotte, NC 28205 704/334-3051

North Carolina Council of Churches

Bryan Building 201 A - Cameron Village Raleigh, NC 27605-1377 919/828-6501 919/828-6542

Rural America, Inc. 1312 - 18th St., N.W. 4th Floor

Wash., DC 20036 202/659-2800

Rural Coalition

2001 S St., N.W. Suite 500 Wash., DC 20009 202/483-1500

Southern Poverty Law Center

P.O. Box 548 Montgomery, AL 36101 205/264-0286

Winrock International Institute for Agricultural **Development**

Petit Jean Mountain Route 3 Morrilton, AR 72110 501/727-5435

Agricultural Cooperative Service Role in Assisting Rural People

The Cooperative Marketing Act of 1926 formalized assistance to agricultural cooperatives in the U.S. Department of Agriculture by establishing a division of cooperative marketing. The Agricultural Cooperative Service (ACS) is the Department's focal point for conducting cooperative research and policy analysis and providing technical assistance to cooperatives and producers interested in organizing cooperatives.

The Agency has five missions.

- 1. Conduct research and analysis on all phases of cooperatives.
- Conduct studies of operations of individual cooperatives upon their request.
- Assist groups of producers who desire to form a cooperative (cooperative development).
- 4. Acquire, analyze, and disseminate economic, statistical, and historical information on cooperatives.
- 5. Promote the knowledge of cooperative principles and practices.

The agency has a total staff of about 70. It has no authority or funds for making grants or loans to cooperatives or groups of producers wishing to form cooperatives.

The agency is organized into an Information and Education staff and three program divisions. The Information and Education Staff handles publishing and other information functions.

The Cooperative Marketing and Purchasing Division is organized on a commodity basis, with specialists in three commodity groups and international trade.

The Cooperative Management Division is organized on a functional basis, with specialists in the areas of cooperative finance, management and operations (including member relations), and policy and legal. The division also has a Statistics and ADP group which conducts an annual survey of farmer cooperatives and publishes an annual cooperative statistics report.

The Cooperative Development Division is the third program division. Its major mission is to provide technical assistance to producer groups interested in forming a cooperative and to assist existing cooperatives still in the developing stages to improve their operations or to analyze the feasibility of new operations or services. The division also provides training to developing cooperative personnel and conducts some research on problems facing developing cooperatives.

The division is organized into two program areas. The Feasibility and Development program is staffed by professionals located in the Washington office. The primary activity of this staff is conducting feasibility studies for groups of producers wishing to form new cooperatives and helping them implement feasible cooperatives.

The Field Operations and Training program is staffed by four professionals, one in Washington and one in each of three field offices located in Greenville, NC; London, KY; and Hilo, HI.

Under the leadership of Washington-based program leaders, training is provided for directors, managers, and other key employees of new and developing cooperatives. This training covers such topics as cooperative principles and practices, directors' role and responsibilities, management, financial management, marketing, and bookkeeping.

In addition to agricultural producers, the Cooperative Development Division provides technical assistance to fishermen, forestland owners, and rural producers of hand crafts. Services can be requested by writing a letter to the Administrator, Agricultural Cooperative Service, USDA, Washington, DC 20250.

USDA Program Discrimination Complaint Procedures

Discrimination is prohibited by regulation in both federally assisted as well as direct assistance programs. Numerous laws, chief among them being Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, and handicap.

It is the policy of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to ensure that no person be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, or handicap in any program or activity receiving direct or indirect assistance from the Department. The Office of Advocacy and Enterprise (OAE) has the responsibility to assure that all minority groups have equal access and treatment in relation to program services.

Although the purpose of this directory is to make farmers and rural communities more aware of agricultural programs administered at state and local levels, we find it necessary to outline the procedures for filing a discrimination complaint when unresolvable problems are encountered in the access to USDA programs and services.

Procedures for Filing Discrimination Complaints

1. What Is a Complaint?

A complaint is a written or oral statement which alleges discrimination in the administration or operation of program activities, benefits, or services on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, and handicap.

2. Who Can File a Complaint?

Any individual or individuals acting in their own interest or on behalf of any specific classes of persons who believe they have been discriminated against on the basis of race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, and handicap may personally, or through a representative, file a complaint.

3. To Whom Should the Complaint Be Addressed?

Individuals who believe themselves to be victims of the kinds of discrimination referred to in this article may file a complaint with the head of any agency, any designated agency official, or the Secretary of Agriculture.

4. What is the Timeframe for Filing a Complaint?

A complaint *must* be filed within *180* days of the alleged discriminatory act, unless the time for filing is extended by the agency head or the Secretary of Agriculture.

5. What Method Should Be Used to File a Complaint?

A complaint can be filed orally or in writing.

6. What Should a Complaint Contain?

All complaints, where appropriate, should contain the following information:

Name, address and telephone number of complainant;

Name and address of the entity delivering the service or benefits;

Date and place of the alleged discriminatory act and a statement as to whether the action is continuing;

Description of the incident or action which the complainant alleges to be discriminatory;

Type of discrimination; e.g., race, color, sex, age, religion, national origin, or handicap;

Name, address and title of persons who may have knowledge of the act: and

Any other information which will assist in investigating and resolving the complaint.

Conservation in the 1985 Farm Bill

What the Conservation Provisions of the 1985 Farm Bill Mean to You

Conservation Provisions

Conservation Reserve: The Conservation Reserve offers producers help in retiring highly erodible cropland. The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) will share up to half of the cost of establishing permanent grasses, legumes, trees, windbreaks, or wildlife plantings on your highly erodible cropland. Under 10-year contracts, ASCS will make annual rental payments to you as long as the terms and conditions of the contract are met.

Conservation Compliance: Conservation compliance applies if you continue planting annually tilled crops on highly erodible fields. To remain eligible for certain USDA program benefits, you must develop and be actively applying a locally approved conservation plan for those highly erodible fields by January 1, 1990. You must have the plan fully implemented by January 1, 1995.

Sodbuster: Sodbuster applies if you plant annually tilled crops on a highly erodible field that was not used for crop production during the period 1981-85. If you plow out such a highly erodible field, you must do so under a conservation system approved by the local conservation district in order to remain eligible for USDA program benefits.

Swampbuster: Swampbuster applies if you convert naturally occurring wetlands to cropland after December 23, 1985 (the date the farm bill was signed). With some exceptions, to remain eligible for certain USDA farm programs you must discontinue production of annually tilled crops on newly converted wetlands.

Your Options

As an agricultural producer, you may:

• Develop and apply a conservation plan for your highly erodible fields, in cooperation with SCS and the local conservation district. The plan will help you reduce soil loss to levels that are technically and economically achievable. You will retain eligibility for USDA farm program benefits.

- Plant permanent cover on land where annually tilled crops cannot be grown because of excessive erosion. If you choose this option, you may want to consider entering the land into the Conservation Reserve and planting permanent grasses, legumes, trees, windbreaks, or wildlife cover. You still would have other USDA programs open to you.
- Produce crops on a highly erodible field without using a locally approved conservation system, but you would lose eligibility for USDA program benefits.
- Produce crops on newly converted wetlands, but lose eligibility for USDA program benefits.

Obtaining Assistance

For more information about the conservation provisions or for conservation planning assistance, contact the local SCS field office. SCS conservationists can tell you if you have wetlands or highly erodible fields, and they will help you prepare a conservation plan. Local conservation districts approve all plans. The Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service has information about the effects of various conservation provisions on USDA farm programs. All efforts will be made to help you continue to qualify.

Wills and the Survival of Family Farms

Today's rural crisis and its effect on the family farmer, especially those who are black, make it easy to overlook some basic landowner responsibilities, many of which are essential if the growing tide of black land loss is to be stemmed and eventually reversed. The greatest responsibilities of a black farm landowner are probably to assure that the land he or she owns (1) is legally secure and (2) can be safely passed on upon his or her death to the individual(s) he or she has chosen.

While the current rural crisis is primarily a financial one, it is compounded for black farmers simply because many do not have clear title to their land, a vast amount of which is heir property.

The most common problems with heir property are:

- 1) It is often impossible to borrow money on heir property because there is no clear title, which makes it less attractive as collateral.
- 2) The land is more likely to become a target for speculators who prey on unsuspecting heirs. This process usually results in land loss through what is known as partition sale.

When a person dies without a will, the heirs acquire an interest in the property. There is no ownership of a specific piece of property or land, only an interest in the entire estate. Frequently, several generations of heirs are involved with varying degrees of interest and ideas on how the property should be used and/or divided.

For various reasons, one or more heirs will often convey their interests in the estate to a land speculator. The speculator will then petition the court to have the entire estate (tract of land) sold at public auction. In most cases, the property is sold at a price far below market value.

Because such an auction usually requires ready cash, the property is more often than not purchased by the speculator or someone outside the landowner's family.

The only sure way for a farmer to prevent such a tragedy would be to make a will and update it as circumstances dictate. The land would then go to whomever the landowner desired.

Because of the complexity of additional problems facing black farm landowners, it is imperative that they continue to meet their basic responsibilities even in the face of the current farm crisis. The most important of these responsibilities is to ensure that the land is preserved for future generations.

It would indeed be a tragedy to survive the agricultural crisis only to lose the land for failing to perform the basic responsibilities of landownership. Although the making of a will is a very important responsibility, there are many others. A detailed list can be obtained by contacting the Federation of Southern Cooperatives/Land Assistance Fund (FSC/LAF), 100 Edgewood Ave., N.E., Suite 1228, Atlanta, GA, (404)524-6882.

